

Urban District of Failsworth.



INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1939.




PATRICK J. WEBB, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

FAILSWORTH:

J. B. Fielding, Printer, Canal Bridge.



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Urban District Council of Failsworth.

Health Committee, 1939-40 :

Councillor (Miss) N. E. BARNES, Chairman.

Councillor J. BRADSHAW.

Councillor J. EVANS.

Councillor J. HIBBERT.

Councillor T. HILTON.

Councillor W. HUNT.

Councillor A. JONES.

Councillor J. KEMP.

Councillor P. RILEY.

Councillor J. STANHOPE.

Councillor G. F. WILSON.

Councillor F. YARWOOD.

Medical Officer of Health :

P. J. WEBB, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

R. GILLING, Cert. S.I.B.,

Cert. of Meat and other Foods, R.S.I., Cert.

Certified Smoke Inspector, R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN F. TEMPLEMAN, Cert. R.S.I.

Clerk in Public Health Department :

KENNETH MORISON.

URBAN DISTRICT OF FAILSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Failsworth Urban
District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Interim Annual Report, as per Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Section 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, and Ministry of Health Circular 2,067, for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

Certain statistics are omitted by reason of the Registrar's figures not being to hand.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Speaking generally, Infectious Disease in this district has been low. The notifications of the principal zymotic diseases are steadily decreasing year by year. As a comparison, 199 notifications of Infectious Disease were received in 1929; in the year under review 125 notifications have been received. This is exclusive of Tuberculosis.

HOUSING.—During the year under review, ninety-seven (97) houses have been erected, including thirty erected by the Council for the re-housing of displaced persons from Clearance Areas, situate as follows :—Mather Street, 5; Kew Road, 7; Tatchbury Road, 1; Newton Road, 3; Clifton Street, 8; Partington Street, 4; Brierley Avenue, 10; Cemetery Road, 5; Broome Grove, 23; Lord Lane, 10; Roman Road, 6; Crown Street, 2; Bethel Avenue, 4; Dalton Street, 4; Hibbert Crescent, 5.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Twenty-five displaced families have been re-housed on the Lord Lane site during the year.

OVERCROWDING.

During the past year eight cases of overcrowding have been abated by reason of the following :—

Family reasons	3
Removed to other houses in the District	5

During the year nine new cases of overcrowding have been reported.

The number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year was 41, and the number of persons dwelling therein was 262.

It is gratifying to be able to report a reduction in the amount of overcrowding in the District, the existing cases being no doubt largely due to the inability to pay high rents.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Health Committee, Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and other officials for their valuable assistance and practical help given throughout the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PATRICK J. WEBB,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

Failsworth is a compact Urban District of 1072 acres, of which 9 acres are covered with water.

There is a gradual rise from 286 feet above sea level at the Manchester extremity to 354 feet above sea level at the Oldham extremity.

The district is divided into two Wards—the Lower near Manchester, and Higher nearer Oldham. This division is effected by the Rochdale Canal, which passes through the district.

The sub-soil is chiefly clay, with sand and gravel in places over-lying the coal measures.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.

The district is entirely industrial, the staple industry being cotton spinning and manufacturing.

At the end of the year, 614 males and 429 females were unemployed.

During the last five years the amount of Poor Law Relief granted in the Township was :—1935, £5,250 16s. 6d. ; 1936, £5,720 3s. 10d. ; 1937, £5,427 15s. 10d. ; 1938, £7,014 13s. 1d. ; 1939, £7,199 6s. 6d.

No gratuitous medical relief, beyond the Poor Relief, is instituted in the district.

A public mortuary is erected in the yard at the rear of the Council Offices.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres).....	1072
Population (Census 1931).....	15724
No. of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	3883
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books ...	5515
No. of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)...	4077
Rateable Value	£80,445
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate (Estimated)...	£283

VITAL STATISTICS.

Not available.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(1) **TUBERCULOSIS.** — The Lancashire County Council maintain various Sanatoria, to which cases of tuberculosis from this district are sent.

(2) **MATERNITY.** — Occasionally difficult maternity cases are treated at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, the Local Authority subscribing annually to this Institution.

(3) **CHILDREN.** — The various Manchester Hospitals are utilised by parents in this district for treatment of children, these hospitals being also supported by the subscriptions of the Local Authority.

(4) **FEVER.** — Accommodation provided at Westhulme Hospital, Oldham, by agreement with the Oldham Corporation. When Westhulme Hospital has been full, Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne Corporations have, whenever possible, obliged us by taking our cases.

(5) **SMALLPOX.** — Two beds are retained at the Hartshead Hospital, Mossley, belonging to the Chadderton, Royton, and Crompton Joint Hospital Board.

(6) **PUERPERAL FEVER.** — Accommodation provided at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, by agreement with the Manchester Corporation.

(7) **CANCER.** — Patients, on recommendation, are admitted to the Christie Cancer Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Wilmslow Road, Withington.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.** — In cases of general sickness two nurses of the Fails-worth and New Moston Sick Nursing Association are available, and visits are made upon the written request of a medical practitioner. No arrangement is made by the Local Authority with the Nursing Association.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases, &c.** — There are no arrangements for the supply of professional nurses in cases of infectious disease. Where efficient isolation can be obtained in cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria, the patient is nursed at home by the mother or some other member of the family. In cases where such conditions do not obtain, the patients are removed to hospital and treated at the expense of the Local Authority.

The County Authorities maintain one nurse for duties in connection with their tuberculosis scheme.

MIDWIVES.

No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. There are two midwives on the Register, and both are actually practising.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious Cases.—All cases of infectious disease, excepting smallpox, are removed by the Oldham Corporation. Smallpox cases are taken to hospital by the ambulance belonging to the Chadderton, Royton, and Crompton Joint Hospital Board.

(b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases.—Arrangements have been made with the Town Council of the County Borough of Oldham for a Motor Ambulance Service, available day and night, for the removal of cases of accident occurring within the Failsworth District, and also of patients residing in the District, to Hospitals, Infirmaries, and Nursing Homes, etc.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Clinic and Treatment Centre for this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and is situated at Firs Hall, Oldham Road.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are available at the Oldham Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, University of Manchester.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A comparison of the number of Infectious Disease Notifications in the years from 1929 to the present date shows a satisfactory decline. In the year 1929, 223 notifications of infectious disease were received by this department, namely:—Scarlet Fever, 62; Diphtheria, 24; Pneumonia, 90; Puerperal Pyrexia, 6; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 5; Erysipelas, 4; Tuberculosis, 24; Malaria, 2; Encephalitis Lethargica, 5. Compare these figures with the 154 notifications received during 1939:—Scarlet Fever, 59; Diphtheria, 34; Pneumonia, 20; Puerperal Pyrexia, 2; Erysipelas, 5; Tuberculosis, 29; Whooping Cough, 3; Acute Poliomyelitis, 1; Para-Typhoid, 1.

No cases of Malaria or Small Pox were notified.

To my mind, the improvement in the sanitation throughout the District has played an important part in the reduction of infectious disease.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.—A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by the Council, free of charge, for the treatment of residents in Failsworth, this being kept at the Health Department, Town Hall; 320,000 units were supplied to medical practitioners during 1939.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Number of specimens examined in 1939 (1) by Public Health Laboratory, Manchester:—

Sputum 4.	Diphtheria 90.	Typhoid 3.
	Scarlet Fever 1.	

(2) By Dr. G. Fletcher, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the Area:—

Sputum 66.	Positive 15.	Negative 51.
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ACTION TAKEN IN REGARD TO (a) CONTACTS, (b) RETURN CASES,
(c) CARRIER CASES.

(a) All contacts kept from school until two weeks after house and bedding have been disinfected ; notice is sent to the head teacher, and necessary instructions given as to exclusion, etc. (b) nil. (c) nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SMALLPOX PREVENTION) REGULATIONS, 1917.

Number of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health :

(a) Primary, Nil. (b) Re-vaccination, Nil.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On receipt of a notification the house is visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and particulars as to character of house, number of occupants, schools attended by children, milk supply, etc., are obtained, and any possible source of infection is thoroughly investigated. If school children are concerned, the headmaster of the school attended is at once notified, and children from the house are not allowed to attend school. The laundries in the locality are notified of all cases of infectious disease. Isolation of the patient is insisted upon, and if this cannot be satisfactorily carried out at home, arrangements have been made whereby the patient is removed to the Westhulme Isolation Hospital, Oldham; Monsall Hospital, Manchester; or the Borough Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Printed instructions as to methods of isolation, etc., are left at the house. Izal fluid and soap are supplied free of charge. Houses where cases are being treated at home are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

As soon as the patient is certified as being no longer infectious, the infected room or rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde vapour, and the walls sprayed with formalin. Bedding is removed for disinfection by steam in the Oldham Corporation Disinfector.

Any nuisances and defects at infected houses are noted and dealt with.

In cases of enteric fever, special sanitary receptacles are provided, and the contents disposed of by the sanitary authority.

During the year, 130 houses have been disinfected, and articles of clothing, bedding, etc., have been disinfected in the steam disinfector belonging to the Oldham Corporation.

No difficulty has been experienced in securing provision of hospital treatment.

There has been no action taken to shorten the period of stay in hospital of uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever; but where efficient isolation and supervision can be obtained, the patient is, as indicated above, allowed to be nursed at home.

When school intimations of infectious disease are received, the School Medical Officer is immediately notified. Any pupil or person found to be suffering from infectious disease is immediately isolated and contacts examined.

No steps have been taken to secure artificial immunisation in schools, etc.

The following schools in the district were disinfected, namely :—
Mather Street Council School, Holy Trinity School, St. Mary's School, Minor Street School, and St. John's School.

There is no steam disinfector in the district, the disinfection of all clothing being carried out by the Oldham Corporation.

No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.												HOSPITAL.	
	AT AGES—YEARS.												Total Deaths, removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belong- ing to district.
	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 to over.		
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	Statistics not available.
Scarlet fever .....	...	1	3	2	3	32	9	4	5	...	...	...	46	...
Diphtheria & Membranous croup	1	...	...	...	2	13	8	5	4	1	...	...	34	...
Enteric fever (incl'g Paratyphoid). .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	2	...	1	...	4	1	2	4	4	1	...	1	Statistics not available.
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	2	...
Malaria—Contracted in this Country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
“ “ Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Totals	125	2	4	3	3	6	51	18	12	16	6	4	87	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age--Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0—1 .....	...	...	...	...
1—5 .....	...	...	...	...
5—10.....	...	...	...	...
10—15.....	...	...	...	...
15—20.....	1	1	1	1	Statistics not available		Statistics not available	
20—25.....	1	1	...	...		
25—35.....	3	2	...	3				
35—45.....	3	5	...	...		
45—55.....	4	1	...	...		
55—65.....	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards...	1	1	...	...		
Totals	13	11	1	4				
	24		5					

The notification of tuberculosis in this district is quite efficient, and no action has been necessary in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No action has been necessary relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor for the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from the disease.

The duties of tuberculosis visitation are carried out by the staff of the County Council. Paper handkerchiefs and cardboard sputum cups are kept in the Health Department, and are given on demand.

Disinfection of the rooms and bedding is carried out in all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis when the patient dies, removes from the district, or enters sanatorium.

Sixty-six examinations of sputum were made by Dr. G. Fletcher, 15 of these being positive, and 51 negative.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS OR ACTION TAKEN FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF MATERNAL DEATHS AND CASES OF PUERPERAL FEVER OR PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

(1) ANTE-NATAL.—Abnormal cases go to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester and patients pay according to their means.

The Municipal Hospital, Boundary Park, Oldham, takes Public Assistance cases, and also private paying patients.

Crossley Hospital, near Brook Street, Manchester, takes paying patients.

(2) SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.—No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

There are two midwives on the Register, and both are practising in the District, their patients being mostly insured persons. Other patients are dealt with by or through the Public Assistance Committee at Boundary Park, Oldham.

(3) CONSULTANTS.—Where difficulties arise the patients are sent to the Municipal Hospital, Boundary Park, Oldham, or St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

(4) HOSPITAL BEDS.—Ample provision in respect of hospital accommodation is available within easy reach of the District, and no difficulty has arisen in this respect. The Hospitals available are as follows:—St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester; the Municipal Hospital, Boundary Park, Oldham; and the Crossley Hospital, Manchester; Greenacres Maternity Home, in the Oldham area, according to the circumstances of the case.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district obtains its water supply mainly from the Oldham Corporation, which is obtained from moorland gathering grounds, and is procured within ten miles of the district. No cases of lead poisoning have occurred. The water supply is good in quality and sufficient in quantity. One sample has been submitted for bacteriological examination and was reported satisfactory.

Some 14 houses in the outlying parts of the district, and one Poultry Run, situate in Stott's Lane, are supplied by the Manchester Corporation, with the consent of the Oldham Corporation.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Medlock adjoins the Sewage Works, and receives the sewage effluent. It flows along the south-east border of the district. The sewage effluent has satisfied the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee. On the opposite boundary of the district is the Moston Brook, which flows into the river Irk. No complaints have been made of this brook during the year. A smaller brook, named Lord's Brook, flows into the Medlock, and another small stream occurs near the Cemetery.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

New sewers have been provided as follows during 1939 :—

Stansfield Road	59 $\frac{1}{3}$ lin. yards	6in. earthenware pipes.
Newton Road	11 ,,	6in. ,, ,,
Cooke Street	14 $\frac{2}{3}$,,	6in. ,, ,,
Broome Grove.....	77 ,,	9in. ,, ,,
Roman Road	36 ,,	9in. ,, ,,
(Playing Fields)		

The smoke or water test is applied to all drains before being covered in.

The sewers in the district are partly brick and partly pipe. Most of the storm water finds its way into the sewers. They are periodically flushed by water-carts, and are ventilated by open manholes and gratings. House drains are well trapped, and soil pipes are properly ventilated. The sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Works.

TREATMENT OF SEWAGE AT DISPOSAL WORKS.—The dry-weather flow of sewage is approximately 1,000,000 gallons per day. The sewage enters the works through a cast-iron pipe, 3 feet in diameter, and passes over a water-wheel, which breaks up the solids, and at the same time works a lime mixer. The crude sewage is treated with lime and ferrous sulphate and passes through two detritus tanks, on through six upward flow tanks to two settling tanks, after which it flows into twelve sprinkler filters, the effluent being subjected to humus tanks and strainer filters before being discharged into the river Medlock.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shows the approximate number of the various sanitary conveniences in the district at the close of the year :—

CLOSETS.	Houses and Shops	Public B'd'gs & Rec. G'ds	Factories & Workshops	TOTALS
Cesspool closets .....	...	...	8	8
Privy-midden closets	6	...	...	6
Pail-closets	68	...	30	98*
Fresh water-closets	5542	188	458	6188
Waste water-closets	158	...	...	158
	5774	188	496	6458

* Ten of these Pails are temporary, being attached to caravan dwellings.

CONVERSIONS :—

During year 1939 During 5 years 1934-1938

No. of privy closets—To fresh W.C.'s.....	Nil	...	Nil
" " To waste W.C.'s	Nil	...	Nil
" " To pails, etc.	Nil	...	Nil
No. of pail closets—To fresh W.C.'s.....	Nil	...	2
" " To waste W.C.'s	Nil	...	Nil
No. of waste W.C.'s to fresh W.C.'s.....	1	...	11

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The following table shows the approximate number of the various refuse receptacles.

REFUSE RECEPTACLES.	Houses and Shops	Public B'd'gs & Rec. G'ds	Factories & Workshops	TOTALS
Cesspools .....	...	...	1	1
Privy-middens (covered) ...	6	...	...	6 {
" " (uncovered)..	...	...	...	... }
Dry ashpits (covered).....	4	...	...	4
Metal ashbins	5568	59	3	5630 {
Wood ashboxes	60	...	..	60 } 5690
	5638	59	4	5701

NIGHTSOIL AND REFUSE REMOVAL.

Table showing number of receptacles emptied monthly.

1939	No. of Weeks	Ashpits	Privy Middens	Ashbins	Loads	Pails	Cess-pools	Barrels
January.....	4	8	18	22144	220	420	2	10
February	4	4	15	23921	220	404	1	9
March	4	4	15	23246	220	408	1	9
April	6	4	24	33216	330	606	2	10
May	5	8	21	28149	275	505	2	9
June	4	4	15	22512	220	404	1	6
July	4	8	18	22494	220	404	2	8
August	5	8	18	28140	275	505	2	8
September ...	4	6	18	22518	220	404	2	8
October.....	5	4	18	28140	275	505	1	7
November ...	4	8	18	22485	220	404	2	8
December ...	4	4	15	22509	220	404	1	6
Totals in 1939.	53	70	213	299474	2915	5373	19	98
Totals in 1938.	52	56	255	283133	2846	5818	17	121

A 20-h.p. "Vulcan" Refuse Collector, with all metal body of $6\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yard capacity, along with a horse team and an extra team working part of the week, carries out the work of refuse collection admirably. Four loaders and one driver are employed on the "Vulcan" Freighter, and one driver and loader are employed on the horse and cart in the emptying of ashbins, ashpits and pails; a special barrel or tumbler cart is used for the removal of night-soil from the pail closets.

The extra horse team is employed five mornings each week in the emptying of ashbins and is engaged the rest of the week in the cartage of covering material to the Broadway Tip.

DISPOSAL.

NIGHTSOIL—This is discharged down a specially built chute to the sewer. The chute is flushed with a hose-pipe (which is connected to a standpipe) after each discharge, and as the inside walls of the chute consist of white glazed bricks, no smell or evidence of the night-soil is visible after the hose-pipe has been turned on.

HOUSE REFUSE.—This is disposed of by what is known as Controlled Tipping; low-lying land is being filled up, which will ultimately become an asset to the district in the shape of playing fields or recreation grounds.

SALVAGE—Bottles, scrap metals, paper, bones, rags, string and carpets are salvaged at the control tip. The salvage of bottles and scrap metal was instituted in March, 1939; waste paper in October, 1939; the remaining salvage was commenced in November.

The total proceeds of sale of salvaged materials during the year was £81 17s. 1d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement has been prepared in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and contains information as to :—

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made during the year ;
- (b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices ;
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.

Tabular Statement of Sanitary Inspections for the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

INSPECTIONS.		No. of Notices Served.			Result of Service of Notices Complied with.		Notices not Complied with.	
Nature of	Number of	Informal.	Statutory.		By Owner or Occupier.	By Council in Default.	Outstanding.	In hands of Surveyor.
Drainage	158	24	5		22	...	2	..
Stables and Piggeries	51	8	2		8	...	...	..
Offensive Trades	15	...	...		...	...	...	..
Asbustins	650	28	504		418	91	...	..
Tents, Vans and Sheds	45	...	...		...	...	...	..
Factories	98	12	...		12	...	...	..
Factories without Mechanical Power	20	2	...		2	...	...	..
Workplaces	24	8	...		8	...	...	..
Outworkers	13	...	...		...	...	...	..
Refuse Collection	8	...	...		...	...	...	..
Refuse Disposal	172	...	...		...	...	...	..
Rats and Mice	6	...	...		...	...	...	..
Smoke Observations	42	...	...		...	...	...	..
Schools	7	...	...		...	...	...	..
Shops	362	32	4		17	...	15	..
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	181	7	...		7	...	...	..
Interviews	155	...	...		...	...	...	..
Effluvium Observations	22	...	...		...	...	...	..
Offensive Accumulations	18	...	...		...	...	...	..
A.R.P.	102	...	...		...	...	...	..
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	252	67	15		50	4	2	11
Recorded Housing Inspections	199	135	86		95	5	25	10
Revisits to Property	1123	...	...		...	...	...	..
Overcrowding—Number of Houses Inspected	52	...	...		...	...	...	..
Visits paid to above Houses	71	...	...		...	...	...	..
Verminous Premises—Number of Houses Inspected	21	2	...		2	...	...	..
Inspections <i>re</i> Cases of Infectious Disease	240	...	...		...	...	...	..
Visits to Slaughter Houses	355	...	...		...	...	...	..
Visits to other Premises where Food is prepared, sold or stored (including Vehicles) .....	...	...	...		...	...	...	..
Visits to Cowsheds	334	61	7		45	...	15	...
Dairies and Milkshops	44	4	...		4	...	...	...
Visits in connection with Sampling Milk—Bacteriological	18	...	...		...	...	...	...
Tubercle Baccilli	14	...	...		...	...	...	...
...	13	...	...		...	...	...	...
Total	4885	390	623		686	100	60	21

DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING 1939.

	No.
DWELLING HOUSES—	
Unclean houses	2
Kitchen ranges, fireplaces and flues.....	50
Washboilers	5
Defective ceiling construction	13
Defective plaster	48
Floors	73
Windows and cords	89
Doors.....	44
Staircases	27
Damp walls	131
Sinks	20
Waste pipes and channels.....	39
Skirting boards and woodwork.....	19
Roofs	20
Pointing and brickwork of walls	50
Yard paving and paths	55
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters	57
Drains cleansed or repaired	46
Defective W.C. apparatus and buildings	72
FACTORIES—	
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	36
Want of cleanliness	1
Other nuisances	2
FARMS AND DAIRIES—	
Cowsheds limewashed	14
Dairies provided	1
SHOPS—	
Ventilation	4
Closet accommodation	1
Heating arrangements	13
FOOD PREMISES—	
Cleansing and limewashing	6
Structural defects.....	17
Washing accommodation	19
OFFICES—	
Sanitary accommodation	5
Ventilation	9
Complaints received and investigated	223
Total...	<u>1158</u>

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, CAMPING SITES, ETC.

At the end of December, 1939, the number of Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., was 21, the number occupied being 10.

Periodical inspections were made during the year to ensure compliance with Byelaws made by this Council in 1928.

No licences in respect to Camping Sites have been issued by the Local Authority, under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year efforts have been made to check the excessive emission of black smoke in the District. Forty-two observations have been taken with that end in view.

During the year, circulars have been sent to the firms in the district, encouraging the firemen to attend classes on "Boiler House Practice," at the Manchester College of Technology.

HOUSE CHIMNEY FIRING. — Two cases have been dealt with at the Manchester County Police Court during the year, the total fines amounting to 12s. 6d.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—On the occasion of tenants being removed from slum houses to Council houses it is the procedure for this Council to employ a private contractor to disinfest the house, bedding and furniture, before the removal is carried out. Thirty-four houses have been disinfested during the year.

It has not been found necessary to disinfest any Council houses.

Nineteen other houses were found to be infested and were disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide or Sulphur Dioxide.

All tenants are advised as to the method of re-infestation and precautions to be taken.

No evidence of re-infestation has been found.

SCHOOLS.

There are five elementary day schools in the district—Mather Street Council School, Minor Street Council School, St. John's School and Holy Trinity School (both National), and St. Mary's (Roman Catholic). The Schools are supplied with town's water, and are provided with closets on the water-carriage system.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) ...	121
(i) By the Local Authority	48
(ii) By other Local Authorities .. .	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons.....	73
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	30
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1101
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2224
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and (1932)	199
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	463
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	63
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	726

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	106
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3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....	86
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	46
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	5

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	519
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(<i>a</i>) By Owners	111
(<i>b</i>) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....	95

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	Nil
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....	Nil

4—HOUSING ACT, 1936. OVERCROWDING.

<i>A.</i> (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	41
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	41
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	262
<i>B.</i> Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
<i>C.</i> (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	48

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The number of dairy farms in the district is now five; the number of dairymen and milk purveyors (excluding cowkeepers) is 91, including 15 milk shops. The majority of the shops (41) sell only bottled milk, the remaining four using covered milk vessels.

Sixty-two visits were paid to farms during the year, and particular attention given to three, samples of milk from which showed high bacterial content. Two of these farms now produce milk of a very satisfactory standard, one of them now being an accredited farm, while the third has been discontinued. Milk shops have been periodically inspected.

A large pasteurising plant owned by the United Co-operative Dairies is situated in the district. This has been inspected periodically, and the temperature recording charts checked. This dairy possesses an artesian well capable of 5,000 gallons per hour, from which a large quantity of the water used is drawn.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 :—

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences issued during 1939 in respect of :—	“ Tuberculin Tested ” milk :	
	(i.) Bottling	Nil
	(ii.) Distribution	1
	“ Accredited ” milk :	
No. of licences issued in respect of “ Pasteurised ” milk :—	(i.) Bottling	Nil
	(ii.) Distribution	Nil
	Pasteurising plants	1
	Retail Distributors ..	11

Thirty-six samples of milk have been taken during the year, including five taken for the County Authorities, the results of which are shown in the following table.

SUMMARY OF MILK EXAMINATIONS during 1939.

Sample No.	Cultivation of Bacteria at 37° in 48 hours per 1 cc.	Bacillus Coli present in			Tubercle Bacilli	Designation of Milk
		1.0 cc.	0.1 cc. of 3 Tubes	0.01 cc. of 3 Tubes		
1	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
2	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
* 3	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
4	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
* 5	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
* 6	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
7	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
8	...	...	...	...	Positive	...
9	920	Absent	Absent	Absent	...	Pasteurised
10	..	...	...	...	Absent	...
11	...	...	...	...	Absent	...
12	...	...	...	...	Positive	...
13	...	...	...	...	Negative	Pasteurised
14	11,600	Absent	Absent	Absent	...	...
15	990,000	Absent	Present	Absent	...	...
* 16	31,000	Absent	Present	Absent	...	...
17	810,000	Absent	Present	Present	...	...
18	96,000	Absent	Present	Present	...	...
19	22,400	Absent	Absent	Absent	...	...
20	1,930,000	Absent	Present	Present	...	...
21	...	...	...	...	Negative	Pasteurised
22	250,000	Absent	Present	Present	...	...
23	1,250,000	Absent	Present	Present	...	...
24	4,000	Absent	Absent	Absent	...	..
25	5,300	Absent	Absent	Absent	...	Pasteurised
* 26	34,000	Absent	Present	Present	...	...
27	1,930	Absent	Absent	Absent	...	...
28	...	...	...	...	Negative	...
29	...	...	...	...	Negative	...
* 30	...	...	...	...	Negative	...
31	...	...	...	...	Negative	...
* 32	...	...	...	...	Negative	...
* 33	...	...	...	...	Negative	...
34	...	...	...	...	Negative	Pasteurised
35	...	...	...	...	Negative	...
36	Methylene Blue Test satisfactory	Absent	Absent	Absent	...	...

* Out-District Farm.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following table shows the premises licensed or registered by the Local Authority :—

Slaughterhouses	6
Premises for preparation or sale of Ice Cream...	19
Premises used for the preparation of Preserved Food, including Fish Friers	32
Hawkers' Storage Premises	6

The six slaughterhouses are all licensed, and where slaughtering did not take place on a fixed day, intention of slaughter was duly notified. Every effort was made to inspect all animals slaughtered. All slaughterhouses are in a good state of repair. There was no washing accommodation in two instances, but this was remedied following informal notice. Butchers' shops have also been periodically inspected. The Public Health Meat Regulations of 1924 and 1935 have been observed in every instance but one, when a verbal caution as to cleanliness was given and complied with.

Premises registered have been periodically inspected. In the case of those used in the Sale and Manufacture of Ice Cream, structural alterations were carried out in three instances, and cleansing in one instance, following informal notice. In the case of premises registered for the preparation of preserved food, remedy of defects was carried out in 17 instances, and cleansing in five instances as a condition of registration. Structural alterations or cleansing were carried out in Hawkers' Premises in four instances, as a condition of registration, and registration was refused in one instance. All premises have been inspected periodically, also Hawkers' Carts, six Hawkers being licensed.

In all, 334 visits were paid to premises where food is prepared, stored or sold, not including slaughterhouses. Sixty-one informal and seven formal notices being served, 45 of which were complied with, the remainder being in hand. No legal proceedings have been necessary.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.....	...	...	...	...	...
Number inspected	806	100	2	4186	1271
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	...	...	...	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31	1	...	7	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3.84	1.00	...	.19	1.02
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :—					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	..	...	...	...	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	25	1	...	...	62
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.10	1.0	...	...	5.11

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 24 bakehouses in the district. A number of these are really part of a dwelling-house. All of these were frequently visited, and several minor defects found, which were remedied.

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

This part of the Act is administered by the Lancashire County Council. Superintendent Webster has kindly furnished the following particulars and results obtained of samples of food, etc., purchased by the Inspectors within this district, and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst :—

Milk.....	26	Camphorated Oil	1
Margarine	1	Bi-carbonate of Soda	1
Lard.....	1	Oatmeal	1
Butter	2	Glycerine	1
Cheese.....	1	Cod Liver Oil.....	1
Honey	1	Tincture of Iodine.....	1
Sugar	1	Salmon	1
Olive Oil.....	1		

All the above samples were found to be genuine.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These consist of two tripe boiling premises. Both have been in existence a considerable time. No complaints were received, and the businesses are carried on so as to be free from nuisance.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

A licence was granted to 18 firms for the keeping of Petroleum, to which the Petroleum Acts apply, each licence being for the duration of twelve months.

All the petroleum is kept in separate stores, specially constructed of fire-proof material throughout, and the Regulations otherwise complied with.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Considerable time has been spent by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the organisation and training of Decontamination Services and establishment and equipment of the First Aid Post.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

I.—Inspection of Factories.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	98	12	...
Factories without Mechanical Power..	20	2	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this report).....	24	8	...
Total.....	142	22	...

II.—Defects found in Factories.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referr'd to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	...	...
Want of Ventilation .....	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding .....	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors .....	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances.....	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	2	2	...
	unsuitable or defective	36	36	...
	not separate for sexes .....	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factories Act:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakeheous .....	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	2	2	...	...
Total.....	41	41	...	...

III.—Home Work.

NATURE OF WORK.	Outworkers Lists.					
	Sending twice in the year			Sending once in the year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Con-tractors.	Work-men.		Con-tractors.	Work-men.
Wearing Apparel, Making (Hat Trimming)
Total

IV.—Registered Factories without Mechanical Power.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	24
Shoemakers and Cloggers	15
Milliners	6
Tailors	3
Hand Laundries	1
Shoeing Smith.....	1
Joiners	5
General	31
Total number of Factories on Register.....	86

V —Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector	2
Notified by H.M. Inspector	2
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector on Completion.	2
Underground Bakehouses— In use at the end of the year	None

BYE LAWS AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

BYE-LAWS.	Came into force.
Nuisances	13th March, 1900
Slaughter-houses	13th March, 1900
Offensive Trades	20th March, 1900
Hackney Carriages	26th March, 1900
New streets and Buildings	9th December, 1926
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures	15th August, 1928
Smoke Bye-laws	14th March, 1929

REGULATIONS with respect to :—

Drains and Sewers, etc., 3rd November, 1898.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops, 1st February, 1898.

Cemetery Regulations and Charges, 10th April, 1919.

ACTS.

The undermentioned Adoptive Acts are in force in the district :—

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—

Part III., adopted 1st April, 1896 ; came into force 1st June, 1896.

Part IV., adopted 13th June, 1912 ; came into force 1st August, 1912.

The Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890. Adopted 7th December, 1899 ; came into force 1st February, 1900.

The Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893. Adopted 13th October, 1903 ; came into force 1st December, 1903.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892. Adopted 12th February, 1907 ; came into force 1st April, 1907.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Section 86, came into force 31st December, 1912.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, *30, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II.

Sections 53 and 54, comprised in Part IV.

Section 95, comprised in Part X.

All the above came into force 21st March, 1913.

* Section 30 is subject to certain conditions and adaptations.

Sections 76 and 77 comprised in Part VI. Came into force 18th July, 1922.

The Baths and Wash-houses Acts, 1846 to 1899. Adopted 8th February, 1912.

Order under Section 51 of Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Declaring certain Trades to be Offensive Trades. Confirming Order made 24th November, 1913.

The Public Health Act, 1925—

Part II., adopted 14th April, 1926 ; came into force 1st June, 1926, with exceptions, viz. :—Sections 21 and 22.

Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

